

22 Grace Avenue,
Dandenong, 3175

15. 1. '92

Dear George,

(03) 7922922.

Thank you, sincerely, for your brief prompt reply to my letter of 16th August '91, and for your faithfulness in your detailed reply of 22nd Sept. '91, following your return home, after holiday with Shirley in Queensland.

It was my genuine intention to reply much earlier than this, but in the first instance I went to Lorne for one week in October with a party of 31 members of the "S.E.C. Retired Personnel Association" of which I am a life member.

Then on 19th November I had surgery for a double hernia.

Living alone one finds time a premium. I am still living in the home we built in 1959, when I was transferred from S.E.C. Bendigo to S.E.C. Dandenong.

I am fortunate to have "home help" for 2 hrs. each Tuesday, and I am able to pay a contractor to cut my lawns once a fortnight, and to pay a handy-man to do some weeding for 2 hrs. once a fortnight. I enjoy gardening, as long as it is not too strenuous.

After working in the S.E.C. for 47 years I retired 2 years early on 31st August '73.

I am most thankful that Joan and I enjoyed 15 years of retirement, being able to travel a bit, before she died after 4 months illness in June 1988. We were able to celebrate our "50th wedding anniversary" one month before she died, in a very small way which our 2 daughters arranged, having due regard to Joan's weakness.

I was most interested to hear about your family, Matthew with Linda, and Jenny with John.

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My family comprises Graeme, who is 51 yrs, and spent 28 yrs in Insurance with The Royal Insurance Group. When the Vic. Govt. introduced "work bare" he, with 5 others in the Bendigo Office, was retrenched. The Office was closed, but he was fortunate to obtain a position as "Grade 2 Administration Officer" with the Dept. of Health in Bendigo within one week. He and his wife, Bartina, would not leave Bendigo, although he was offered a job in Melb. with The Royal Group. They have 3 children. 25 yrs, 22 yrs 19 yrs Two girls, 1 boy.

Berris is next at 47 yrs and is a "State Registered Nurse". She is married to Terry, Rev. Fr. J. B. Fella, a Baptist Minister. They have been in Auckland N.Z. for the past 7 years, but are returning to Melb. when they can sell their home in N.Z. They have Matthew, 25 yrs, and Lynette 21 yrs. They adopted 2 aborigines, boys, when 8 weeks old. One is now 18 yrs, the other 16 yrs. Both very big boys - keen on sport.

Lorraine, is 43, married to Bill Rysdyk. They have 2 daughters and one son. Lorraine has had a lot of experience as a draughtswoman. They live at Cranbourne, which is 14 km south-east of Sandhurst. Because of this, and the distance of Graeme and Berris, I see a lot of Lorraine who is most caring for my needs and welfare. I was 81 yrs last birthday - 1st September.

I am fortunate that I am on a "S.E.C. Superannuation" which is subject to a C.P.I. increase each January. Nevertheless, the dropping of interest rates has affected investments, and the various taxes and service rates are always on the increase, as you no-doubt know.

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I mentioned earlier that Joan and I were fortunate to do some travelling. In March '74 we joined the P+O "Kathay" for 7 weeks going to Port Moresby, Manila, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan etc. 274 passengers and some cargo. We lived on the "Kathay" for the whole 7 weeks. Very enjoyable.

January '76 we joined a tour to both Islands of N.Z. for 3 weeks.

July '77 we went by the "Old Ghaz" to three Springs and the tour included Tyers Rock & booby Peds etc.

Aug. '78 we joined a party of "S.F.C. Retired Personnel Association" to fly to Perth and returned home via a coach on the Nullarbor etc.

June '80 We drove to Cairns in our car and were away for 6 weeks.

October '85 and March '87 we visited our daughter in N.Z. for one month each stay.

In March '89 I went to N.Z. on my own for 1 month.

In all, we were most fortunate and I wish Shirley and yourself much happiness as your "pipe dreams" develop.

I was most interested to learn of your success in making the necessary contacts resulting from your session with "Kasea". I wish you every success as you continue with your long range plan for a Re-union in Adelaide in the future.

I have been blessed with good health and been able to live an active life. I am convinced that, by avoiding drink and smoking, activity encourages good health.

My wish for Shirley and yourself is to be blessed with good health and to continue on with craftwork and your other interests etc. Please forgive this rambling letter.

Sincerely,

Wille Davis